

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) An article turning-round apparatus provided with first and second stations at which a plurality of disposable wearing articles each having, in addition to front and rear waist regions opposed to each other, a waist-surrounding upper end zone and a crotch bottom zone, are successively loaded and unloaded, respectively, and adapted to successively turn round said articles moving from said first station to said second station, said article turning-round apparatus being characterized by that:

said turning-round apparatus comprises a rotary base adapted to be rotated by means of a first shaft and provided along a peripheral zone thereof with said first and second stations and a plurality of load-carrying tables arranged at regular intervals along said peripheral zone, said load-carrying tables being adapted to carry thereon said articles of which said front or rear waist regions are held in contact with said load-carrying tables and said waist-surrounding upper end zones are lined up in a predetermined direction;

said load-carrying tables comprise first load-carrying tables adapted to move along said peripheral zone of said rotary base and second load-carrying tables mounted on said rotary base so as to be rotated by respective second shafts extending in an axial direction of said first shaft, said second load-carrying tables being adapted to be rotated around their own axes in said peripheral zone of said rotary base while said second load-carrying tables move along said peripheral zone of said rotary base as said rotary base rotates, said first and second load-carrying tables being alternately arranged so that each of said second load-carrying tables be interposed between each pair of said first load-carrying tables; and

said first and second load-carrying tables are successively loaded with said articles as soon as said first and second load-carrying tables alternately reach said first station as said rotary

base rotates and said second load—carrying tables rotate in said peripheral zone of said rotary base on their own axes substantially by an angle of 180° relative to said first load-carrying tables while said second load-carrying tables move along said peripheral zone of said rotary base from said first station to said second station.

2. (original) The article turning-round apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said first and second load-carrying tables include a first suction mechanism functioning to hold said articles on said first and second load-carrying tables under a suction effect, said first load-carrying tables move along said peripheral zone of said rotary base from said first station to said second station together with said articles held thereon under the suction effect, on one hand, and said second load-carrying tables rotating around their own axes together with said articles held thereon under the suction effect in said peripheral zone of said rotary base while said second load-carrying tables move along said peripheral zone of said rotary base together with said articles held thereon under the suction effect from said first station to said second station, on the other hand.

3. (*currently amended*) The article turning-round apparatus according to Claim 1 [[or 2]], further comprising a first conveyor belt assembly adapted to convey said articles at regular intervals to said first station of said rotary base so that each pair of adjacent said articles may have respective waist-surrounding upper end zones lined up with each other and a second conveyor belt assembly adapted to convey said articles away from said second station of said rotary base at regular intervals so that each pair of adjacent said articles may have respective waist-surrounding upper end zones and respective crotch bottom zones lined up with each other

4. (*currently amended*) The article turning-round apparatus according to Claim 1 [[or 2]], further comprising a first conveyor belt assembly adapted to convey said articles at regular intervals to said first station of said rotary base so that each pair of adjacent said articles

may have respective waist-surrounding upper end zones and respective crotch bottom zones opposed to each other and a second conveyor belt assembly adapted to convey said articles away from said second station of said rotary base at regular intervals so that each pair of adjacent said articles may have respective waist-surrounding upper end zones opposed to each other.

5. *(currently amended)* The article turning-round apparatus according to Claim 3 [[or 4]], wherein said first conveyor belt assembly includes a second suction mechanism adapted to hold said articles on said first conveyor belt under a suction effect and, when said first and second load-carrying tables come face to face with said first conveyor belt assembly, said first suction mechanism effectively functions against the effect of said second suction mechanism to transfer said articles from said first conveyor belt assembly onto said first and second load-carrying tables.

6. *(currently amended)* The article turning-round apparatus according to ~~any one of Claims 3 through 5~~ Claim 3, wherein said second conveyor belt assembly includes a third suction mechanism adapted to hold said articles on said second conveyor belt under a suction effect and, when said first and second load-carrying tables come face to face with said second conveyor belt assembly, said third suction mechanism effectively functions against the effect of said first suction mechanism to transfer said articles from said first and second load-carrying tables onto said second conveyor belt assembly.

7. *(currently amended)* The article turning-round apparatus according to ~~any one of Claims 1 through 6~~ Claim 1, wherein said article is a pull-on disposable diaper comprising a liquid-pervious topsheet facing a wearer's body, a liquid-impervious backsheet facing away from said wearer's body and a liquid-absorbent core interposed between said top- and backsheets and formed with a waist-hole and a pair of leg-holes.